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DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON

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CONFIDENTIAL

~~DIVISION OF~~

[Subject:]

NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE AUTHORITY DIRECTIVE
ON "COORDINATION OF COLLECTION ACTIVITIES".

FEB 20 1947

~~FOREIGN SERVICE~~

PLANNING American Diplomatic and Consular Officers.

Sirs:

Reference is made to Department's Foreign Service Serial No. 670 dated January 31, 1947. After several months of negotiation and of careful study of the problems of collecting and reporting intelligence abroad, the enclosed directive of the National Intelligence Authority was agreed to by the Intelligence Advisory Board at its meeting of December 20, 1946.

The purpose of the directive is to prevent unproductive duplication and lack of coordination in the collection of intelligence to the end that the collection facilities of the Government may be utilized with maximum efficiency, within the limitations of budget and personnel, to secure that full flow of intelligence material which is a major need of all Departments.

The directive, naturally, represents to a considerable degree a compromise between the former views of the several intelligence agencies with respect to their collection responsibilities. In the field of economic and scientific intelligence, for example, the Department will naturally continue to expand reporting, while at the same time the Department recognizes that the intelligence services of the armed forces are increasingly responsible for the military and naval significance of economic establishments and scientific developments abroad. In this field, and no doubt in other special cases, responsibility should be measured to meet the respective needs of the Departments concerned, and the Chief of Mission or the Officer in Charge will find it advantageous to establish a working agreement that fits the local circumstances.

The Chiefs of all the intelligence agencies were, moreover, very much concerned lest a directive dividing the responsibility should result in limiting the intelligence collected. It is, of course, inevitable that in areas where representation is limited, military or naval information will come to the attention of a Foreign Service Officer; or that a Military or Naval Attaché, in the course of his work, will acquire political intelligence which might otherwise be lost. This situation, however, is anticipated in paragraph 1(b) which states that the collector shall, wherever possible, transmit intelligence information and material immediately to the field representatives of the agency most concerned. For the further information of his

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Department, each collector may also send to his own Department copies of intelligence acquired by him, even though the official report is made by the field representative of the Department most concerned. The intent here is to cover cases of intelligence collected from private contacts, and should not be construed to justify what has so frequently happened in the past, namely the repetition in extenso of the substance of routine reports already made by the Mission to the Department.

Instead of such time consuming and expensive repetition, it is suggested that when a report made by one Department is deemed by the field representative of another Department to be of interest to his own superiors, he might be encouraged to refer his superiors in Washington to the report in question. Full provision is made for distribution and exchange of reports between the Departments in Washington so that there is no reason why the duplicate reporting that was common to the war years should continue.

It will be noted in paragraph 1(c) of the enclosed directive that the senior ~~USP~~ representative in each foreign area where the United States maintains a Foreign Service post shall be responsible for the coordination of all collection activities in his area and for the proper implementation of that coordination. It is, of course, understood by all concerned that normally the Chief of Mission, or in his absence the Chargé d'Affaires, is the senior ~~USP~~ representative; and that in areas where there is no diplomatic mission the Officer in Charge of the consular district or post is the senior ~~USP~~ representative. On the other hand, the senior ~~USP~~ representative may in some areas be a Military Commander, as at present is the case in Germany, Austria, Japan and Korea, which are under Army command; and as is at present the case, for example, in the area under the jurisdiction of the Seventh Fleet, where Intelligence personnel and certain islands are under ~~USP~~ Naval Command.

The success of this cooperative effort at coordination will depend entirely upon the degree to which Chiefs of Missions and Officers in Charge achieve cooperation among the personnel of intelligence services under their supervision. The Department believes that the enclosed directive represents a definite step forward toward the long range objective of eliminating useless duplication of effort and of securing an integrated national intelligence program.

Very truly yours,

For the Secretary of State:

William A. Eddy

~~Enclosure~~

~~NIA Directive~~

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